

# Suggested Conference Topics

## History, Historic Preservation & Interpretation

- Navigating the politics of historic preservation
- Innovative archaeological investigations
- How to change outsider attitudes toward our professions
- Lessons learned on endangered properties that have been saved
- Conducting historical research online
- Sessions geared toward CRM professionals. Information to assist with identification/evaluation of resources, assessment of effects, consultation with interested parties, etc.
- Interpretation of Industrial Sites
- Interpretation of Women's history sites
- Applying the National Register criteria to post-WWII subdivisions.
- Understanding and evaluating agricultural building types
- Careers in historic preservation (for the younger audience, or second career folks)

## Heritage Tourism

- A detailed discussion of visitor experience at historic sites and museums
- Examples of organizations that are successfully bucking the trend of declining visitation. What are they doing and how do NJ museums and sites compare? Strategies and techniques that can be emulated
- Examine how excellence and success can make it less likely for the public (and DMOs) to ignore history-focused attractions

## Historic Site Management, Interpretation and Audience Engagement

- Non-profit board development and capacity building
- Building strong and viable membership and volunteer bases
- Engaging and Leveraging Volunteers
- Fundraising strategies for nonprofits
- Examples of innovative stewardship and/or reuse of historic sites
- Models of collaboration and cooperation in the history and preservation communities
- How to successfully administer preservation projects
- Lessons learned that illustrate innovative planning documents for historic sites and/or history museums
- Sessions for small, volunteer run historical societies & house museums:

- A primer on collecting policies and organizing collections and archives (how to get started)
- session on archiving software options or how-to
- Outreach through websites- best practices or tips or a case-study on how an organization went about a website redesign
- new media- outreach through facebook, twitter- reaching a younger audience, attracting younger members/volunteers
- Case studies illustrating innovative uses of new technologies, especially related to bridging the “gaps” in diversity
- Examples of projects, programmatic or strategic planning processes and partnerships (executed or planned) designed to engage diverse audiences
- Disaster Planning
- Risk Assessment/ Risk Management

## Historic Architecture

- Preservation approaches that incorporate sustainable techniques
- ADA/barrier free access for historic buildings. The whys and wherefores; how to convince trustees/governing body to make upgrades; making upgrades appear natural in a historic setting, interior and exterior access (e.g. in historic landscapes), lifts/elevators, planning for, funding for, etc.
- Lessons learned illustrating conservation and craftsmanship

## Local Preservation, Planning and Policy

- How to prevent "demolition by neglect" of protected historic properties owned by both private entities & local govt.
- Using design guidelines in decision-making
- Architectural design guidelines incorporated into redevelopment area plans (with case studies)
- Public policy impacts on planning & preservation
- Economics of preservation in the current climate
- Advocacy
- Impacts of demographic change on preserving historic sites

## Innovative landscape preservation techniques

- Making the landscape less vulnerable to climate change